

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 /147 W

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R 051010Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8681

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T SAIGON 18938

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, VS

SUBJECT: TRUONG'S REMARKS AT MONTHLY MR-1 COMMANDER'S
CONFERENCE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOLLOWING MSG REC FROM AMCONSUL DANANG ON NOV 3 ACTION EMBASSY
SAIGON INFO BIEN HOW CAN THO NHA TRANG DAO SAIGON REPEATED
FOR YOUR INFO:

S E C R E T DANANG 1195

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, VS

SUBJECT: TRUONG'S REMARKS AT MONTHLY MR-1 COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE

REF: DANANG 1188

1. SUMMARY: IN HIS REMARKS CONCLUDING THE OCTOBER 28 MONTHLY
MR-1/I CORPS COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE, LT GEN NGO QUANG TRUONG
ASSIGNED PRIORITY TO THREE AREAS: TERRITORIAL SECURITY,
IMPROVEMENT OF REGIONAL AND POPULAR FORCE UNITS, AND RETURN-
TO-VILLAGE AND RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS. TRUONG STRESSED THE NEED
IN ALL AREAS FOR CAREFUL PLANNING, ATTENTION TO DETAIL, AND

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REALISTIC, ACHIEVABLE GOALS. HE URGED FREQUENT VISITS BY

COMMANDERS TO SUBORDINATE UNITS, ACCURATE REPORTING OF MILITARY OPERATIONS AND PROBLEMS, AND IMPROVED DISCIPLINE. END SUMMARY.

2. GENERAL TRUONG ADDRESSED HIS REMARKS PRIMARILY TO HIS PROVINCE CHIEFS, WHO EARLIER IN THE CONFERENCE HAD GIVEN DETAILED REPORTS ON THE OVERALL SITUATION IN THEIR SECTORS. THROUGHOUT HIS REMARKS, TRUONG URGED GENUINE FORMULATION OF PROGRAMS RATHER THAN PAPER EXERCISES FOR THE SAKE OF FORM. DO NOT PREPARE NICE PRESENTATIONS FOR MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH ME, HE SAID IN EFFECT; CHOOSE TARGETS CAREFULLY AND ADAPT WORKABLE PROGRAMS TO ACHIEVE THEM.

3. TERRITORIAL SECURITY MUST BE ACHIEVED AT ANY COST, TRUONG TOLD HIS COMMANDERS, AND HE EMPHASIZED THE INTER-RELATIONSHIP OF SECURITY WITH THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL OTHER GVN PROGRAMS. HE URGED THAT THE PRESENT RELATIVELY QUIET SITUATION, WHICH HE TERMED "TEMPORARY", BE UTILIZED TO DESTROY THE VIET CONG INFRASTRUCTURE.

4. TRUONG CALLED FOR THE PROPER DEPLOYMENT OF UNITS IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF TERRITORIAL SECURITY. HE ORDERED FREQUENT VISITS, BY DAY AND NIGHT, BY SECTOR COMMANDERS TO CHECK ON SUBORDINATE UNITS, AND CAREFUL PLANNING OF MILITARY OPERATIONS. HE URGED THAT COMMANDERS MAKE EFFORTS TO SOLVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, BUT WHEN THEY ARE UNABLE TO SOLVE THEM THEMSELVES, TOLD THEM TO REPORT THEIR DIFFICULTIES ACCURATELY TO MR-1 HEADQUARTERS SO THAT HELP CAN BE GIVEN. HE PARTICULARLY STRESSED THAT REPORTING TO THE TACTICAL OPERATIONS CENTER BE SPEEDY AND ACCURATE.

5. THE MR-1 COMMANDER CRITICIZED THE LACK OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE DEFENSE OF FIXED INSTALLATIONS, AND ASKED FOR PROPER SUPERVISION OF UNITS DEFENDING THEM. TRUONG COMMENDED THE COMMUNISTS' DEFENSES, AND SAID THAT RVNAF'S DEFENSES SHOULD BE BETTER THAN THE COMMUNISTS' BECAUSE THE RVNAF HAS MORE RESOURCES.

6. WITH REGARD TO IMPROVEMENT OF UNITS, TRUONG ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ASSIGNED STRENGTH HAS INCREASED, BUT HE STATED FLATLY THAT THE PRESENT-FOR-OPERATIONS STRENGTH IS STILL LOW, AND IS NOT AS HIGH AS WAS REPORTED BY THE G-3 AND SECTOR COMMANDERS. HE
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CALLED FOR IMPROVED COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION AMONG SUBORDINATE UNITS, WHICH HE TERMED POOR, AND IMPROVEMENT IN THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED RF TACTICAL COMMAND POSTS. HE SUGGESTED THAT PERSONNEL BE ASSIGNED PERMANENTLY TO THESE POSTS.

7. TRUONG ALSO STRESSED THE NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN DISCIPLINE. HE ACCUSED HIS OFFICERS OF CLOSING THEIR EYES TO DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS. HE ORDERED THAT THEY NOT TOLERATE VIOLATIONS OF

DISCIPLINE, AND BE JUST. (COMMENT: TRUONG DID NOT SPARE HIS OFFICERS EMBARRASSMENT. HE SPECIFICALLY SINGLED OUT COL. NGUYEN DUC KHANH, 1ST AIR DIVISION COMMANDER, AND TOLD HIM TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE DISCIPLINE OF HIS MEN. EARLIER, HE MENTIONED THAT ON ONE OF HIS OWN FREQUENT VISITS TO THE FIELD, HE HAD NOT FOUND THE HIEU DUC DISTRICT CHIEF AT SUBSECTOR HEADQUARTERS. END COMMENT.)

8. TRUONG ALSO URGED ATTENTION TO RETURN-TO-VILLAGE AND RE-SETTLEMENT PROGRAMS. HE OBSERVED THAT SOME OF THESE PROGRAMS HAD BEEN PLANNED TOO FAST, AND CALLED FOR FOLLOW-UP EFFORTS TO SEE THAT PERSONS RESETTLED OR RETURNED TO VILLAGE ARE ABLE TO EARN A LIVING WHERE THEY ARE SETTLED. RECONSTRUCTION IS MOVING TOO SLOWLY. PROVINCE CHIEFS SHOULD UNDERTAKE MORE MILITARY CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS SUCH AS THOSE THE MARINE AND AIRBORNE DIVISIONS HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHING IN THEIR AREAS OF OPERATION.

9. WITH REGARD TO GENERAL LAC'S INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING THE RICE SITUATION TRUONG CALLED FOR PERSONAL REVIEW AND FOLLOW-THROUGH, INCLUDING VISITS TO RICE DEALERS, BY PROVINCE CHIEFS TO BE CERTAIN THAT THE CIVILIAN POPULATION CAN BUY RICE AT PROPER PRICES AND TO AVOID DIVERSION OF RICE TO THE VIET CONG. POPPLE

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